

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The concern is not about the ownership, board of directors or management having opinions about politics or social evolution, or even the "direction" of our government. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. It is about blatant disregard for principles of journalistic integrity and responsibility. It is about an "abuse of power" which comes from unchecked "control" over information exchange in a free society. Offering "fair and equitable" commentary and equal representation of "all points of view" to the general public. The public should decide what their "truth" is after being give ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE, not just the viewpoint of the management or ownership of that particular media conglomerate.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.